

FEB 1952 01-AAA

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Molotov Oblast)

DATE DISTR. 26 June 1952

SUBJECT Stalin Coal Mine near Polovinka

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF
INFO.NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)PLACE
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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Location

1. The Stalin Coal Mine is located about one km east of Polovinka (58-56N, 57-34E), which is 300 km northwest of Sverdlovsk.

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History

2. This is an old coal mine and one of several mines in the area, some of which have been closed down.

Personnel

3. About 1500 workers, including Soviet convicts and German PWs, were employed in two shifts. The majority of the Soviets worked for the German Army during the war. The name of the manager is not known.

Production

4. Good quality hard coal in large quantities is mined from 120 to 1200 meters in depth and extends 4-5 km. The mine is fitted with up-to-date electric machinery, including electrically driven underground cars and cages.

Communications

5. A Russian gauge branch line connects the mine with Polovinka.

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Pay

6. An unskilled surface worker earned 500-600 rubles a month. He did not receive his wages in cash, as they were handed over to the PW camp to cover lodging, food, clothing, etc. Underground workers earned up to 1800

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Document No.	11
No Change in Class.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Declassified	<input type="checkbox"/>
Class. Changed To:	TS S C
Auth.	HR 702
Date:	28 AUG 1978

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rubles a month, of which they received 1000 - 1200 rubles in cash. When a PW was released, he was given any outstanding money due to him to purchase food for his journey home. He was given receipts to support these purchases to avoid possible complications during his journey home. At least any money found on a PW was taken away.

Food and Provisions

7. Canteen prices were as follows:

	<u>rubles</u>
1 kg of brown or rye bread	3
1 kg of butter	66
1 kg of bacon	60
1 pair of leather shoes	
about	350
1 ordinary wristwatch	500-600
1 cotton pullover	30

PWs were able to obtain permission to go to Polovinka under escort to purchase clothing such as linen shirts.

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